

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 30

MAY, 1980

NUMBER 4

New Church Development Campaign Introduced

The campaign to help fund the Southeast Conference New Church Development program was recently renewed and introduced to lay and clergy teams, to be shared by year's end with all Conference churches.

With three new churches underway, and two more new church starts contemplated by 1988, the Southeast Conference New Church Development program — as the enclosed special supplement suggests — is well underway.

But your help is needed! The responsibility for financing our new church starts rests not only with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, but with us as well. The 1980 goal for the Southeast Conference New Church Development Campaign is \$21,000.

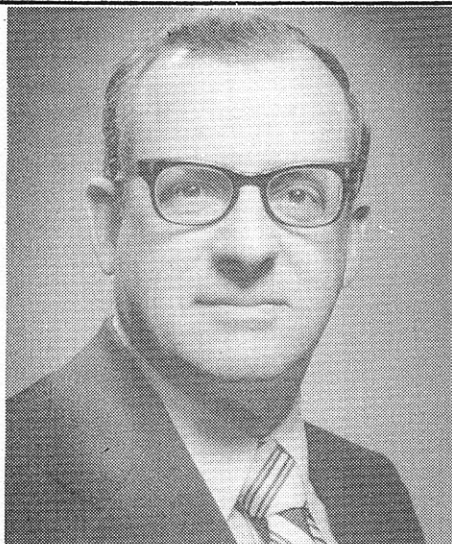
When the Campaign is introduced to your church, plan to participate!

Kampuchea Update

Over \$112,000 has been given by the United Church of Christ to Kampuchean (Cambodian) relief. So far, Church World Service has received more than \$1.5 million for this purpose and has sent relief goods in excess of \$1.2 million (as of the first of 1980).

What has been sent? Mosquito netting, mats, and blankets, 810 metric tons of rice, 20 metric tons of sugar, 10 metric tons of salt, 20 metric tons of oil, 40 metric tons of fish, 10,000 bottles of intravenous fluids with administration units, 100,000 rice bowls, 5,000 cook pots, 1,500 fish nets, 4,272 hoe heads. These have gone to Kampuchea in seven shipments at a total cost of \$697,901. In addition, \$500,000 in goods was sent through CICARWS, the European service division of the World Council of Churches, directly into Phnom Penh.

Your gifts have been and continue to be appreciated!



Dr. Emmett O. Floyd

Dr. Emmett O. Floyd Called As New Conference Minister

At a Called Meeting of the Southeast Conference held on March 22 at First Congregational Church, UCC, in Atlanta, Ga., it was unanimously voted that the Southeast Conference accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors and extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Emmett O. Floyd to become the Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference for an indefinite period beginning July 1, 1980.

The nomination of Dr. Floyd was made to the Board of Directors by the Conference Minister Search Committee, the 14 members of which worked over six months to process over 30 candidates for the position.

No stranger to the Southeast area, Dr. Floyd and his wife, the former Katherine Holmes, were both born and raised in Georgia. A graduate of Mercer University, Dr. Floyd received his BD from Southern Theological Seminary and his ThD from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Presently Pastor of Congregational United Church of Christ in Greensboro, N.C. where he has served since 1967, Dr. Floyd has also served churches in Georgia and Florida. Selected as "Atlanta's Outstanding Young Man of the Year" after organizing a new congregation that grew

Cont'd. on Page 2

Fisk Site of 1980 Annual Meeting

Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, will be the site of the 14th annual meeting of the Southeast Conference to be held Friday through Sunday, June 6-8, 1980.

Highlighting this year's annual meeting will be the change in Southeast Conference leadership. On Friday evening, June 6, a special service will be held to celebrate the ministry of retiring Conference Minister William J. Andes and his wife, Carey, who have served the Conference for 14 years.

Following his address to the Conference on Saturday evening, June 7, Dr. Emmett O. Floyd will be installed as the Conference's second Conference Minister during the Sunday morning worship service. Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ, will be present to preach at the Sunday worship service and assist in the installation ceremony.

In addition to conducting regular business and considering our financial challenges this year and in the future, the Conference will also be challenged by human as well as institutional needs. Rev. Edwin Mehlhaff will present the exciting developments in the Conference New Church Development program. Rev. Joe Ingle will share the plight of those incarcerated in jails and prisons across the south. Rev. Wilson Welch will unfold the story and new opportunities of the Race Relations Institute of Fisk University.

A special element of this year's Annual

Cont'd. on Page 3

ELON MAKES APPEAL

Elon Home for Children, a United Church Health and Welfare institution located in Elon College, N.C., invites Southeast Conference churches to join those in the Southern Conference and the New England states in taking a special offering on Mother's Day, May 11, 1980.

The first child care agency to receive accreditation from the National Association of Homes for Children, Elon will send publicity materials upon request. Please write to: The Elon Home for Children, P.O. Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.



Dr. Liston Mills

Ministers' Convocation Led By Dr. Liston Mills

Some 33 ministers and spouses gathered at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Al., for the 1980 Southeast Conference Ministers' Convocation held Monday through Wednesday, May 5-7.

The highlight of the Convocation was three lectures on "Marriage and Divorce Counseling" delivered by Dr. Liston Mills, Oberlin Alumni Professor of Pastoral Theology and Counseling, Vanderbilt Divinity School.

In addition to a presentation on the legal aspects of divorce by Lawyer Douglas Knight of Cullman, Al., the Convocation was also treated to some fromp and pircumstance as Ole Thermometer U. was called to order. Following some reflections on the history of the Conference by retiring Conference Minister William Andes, Conference Minister elect Dr. Emmett Floyd led a closing worship service of Holy Communion.

The Convocation was most fortunate to have the services of Dr. Mills. A graduate of Davidson College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his BD, ThM and ThD degrees, Dr. Mills, in addition to his teaching duties at Vanderbilt, is also Editor of the *Journal of Pastoral Psychology* and is a frequent contributor to theological journals. Coincidentally, Dr. Mills was also a seminary classmate of Dr. Floyd's.

His final Convocation as Conference Minister, Bill Andes and his wife, Carey, expressed their appreciation for the friendship and help they received over the past 14 years.

Rev. Gene Kee was the Convocation Chairman.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Helen Keller, who was born deaf as well as blind, helps us to rethink our priorities when she says: "Being blind and deaf to the material world has helped me to develop an awareness of the invisible, spiritual world. I know my friends not by their physical appearance, but their spirit. Consequently, death does not separate me from loved ones. To me there is no such thing as death in the sense that life has ceased."

Dr. Floyd Cont'd.

to over 800 members, he served as a U.S. Navy Chaplain in Korea and presently holds the rank of Captain in the Naval Reserve Chaplain Corps.

In addition to being a successful pastor in both small and large churches, Dr. Floyd has served as vice-president of the Southern Conference and, since 1975, has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Catawba College.

On the national level, Dr. Floyd has served on the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries, serving as its Chairman and, most recently, as its President.

The Floyds have five children: Marian 28, Beth 25, David 24, and twins Karen and Karyl 20.

Dr. Floyd will be installed as Conference Minister at the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting to be held at Fish University June 6-8, 1980.



The College Choir of Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS, a college related to the United Church of Christ, performed in concert at First Evangelical & Reformed UCC in Nashville on March 15.



Mrs. Peggy Hall

Conference Minister Search Committee Completes Task

With the unanimous approval of Dr. Emmett Floyd as the new Conference Minister at the March 22nd special meeting of the Southeast Conference, the work of the Conference Minister Search Committee officially came to a close.

Representing each area and constituency of the SEC, the Conference Minister Search Committee was gathered last summer and led through six meetings under the able leadership of Mrs. Peggy Hall, Pleasant Hill, Tn.

Having drawn up a Conference profile and advertised the position, some 31 persons contacted the committee for consideration of the position. Eliminating those candidates without prior experience in the South, the Steering Committee then

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"Teach Us To Build — Keep Us Building"

New Church Development

DEVELOPING NEW AND REDEVELOPING EXISTING CHURCHES IN
THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Members of Button Gwinnett UCC on the new church property in Lilburn, GA. Button Gwinnett is one of the three fastest growing new church starts in the country.

Southeast Conference Developing New Churches To Meet New People

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is entering into a new and exciting chapter of its history. What makes it new are people — lots of people! And in response, a program of New Church Development has been initiated to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population in the six states composing the Southeast Conference.

"Go west, young man, go west," the remark made by Horace Greeley, would have to be changed today to, "Go south, Americans, go south." And to the south, young as well as older Americans are coming, in numbers larger than ever before. In fact, it is anticipated that by the year 2000, over 50 percent of the United States' population will be living in the Sunbelt, a moon-shaped area stretching all the way from Virginia across to southern California.

In response to this population shift, the United Church of Christ developed a "Sunbelt Strategy" which seeks to initiate by 1988 some 75 new and a number of redeveloped churches in the states and Conferences composing the Sunbelt area. Convenanting with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for leadership and proportional financial resources, Sunbelt Conferences are to act

out Christ's invitation: "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make disciples. . . (Matthew 28:19).

One of the key participants in the Sunbelt Strategy is, of course, the Southeast Conference. With an influx of some 1.5 million people in the last 10 years and anticipating that figure to double in the next decade, the Southeast Conference seeks not only to redevelop a number of older churches, but to initiate a minimum of five new churches by 1988. Currently in the third year of its New Church Development program, the Southeast Conference already has two new church starts and one redevelopment program underway, with a third new initiative being considered.

As might be expected, New Church Development is not inexpensive. Quite fortunately, UCBHM helps to shoulder a major proportion of the load. Nevertheless, above and beyond OCWM giving, the Southeast Conference must raise \$21,000 in 1980 if New Church Development is to be successful. If your church has not already been approached about how you can help support New Church Development, it will be by early fall. Plan to be an enthusiastic supporter and help the Southeast Conference grow!

NEW CHURCH STARTS:

**New Names,
New Places,
New Friends**

In the Southeast Conference, New Church Development has not only introduced us to new places, new names and new friends, but it has initiated church starts that are "new" in a variety of ways, as the following reports indicate.

BUTTON GWINNETT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first effort of the present New Church Development program, Button Gwinnett UCC was initiated in June, 1978 outside of Atlanta in Lilburn, Ga., one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Taking its name from a Congregationalist who was one of Georgia's two signers of the Declaration of Independence, Button Gwinnett UCC is one of the three fastest growing new church starts in the UCC today. Approaching its second anniversary and the close of its charter, the church has over 130 members and is growing at the rate of nearly one new family a week.

Under the leadership of pastor Rev.

Cont'd. Reverse Side—



Southwest Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA has already purchased a building.

New Church Starts Cont'd.

George Bennett, and through the auspices of the Southeast Conference, Button Gwinnett UCC has researched, selected and purchased a site for the future church building, the first phase of which they hope to have under construction by 1981. The church address is: P.O. Box 1129, Lilburn, Ga. 30247.

PILGRIMAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

New Church Development's most recent project is Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, located in Cobb County, a rapidly growing suburb of Atlanta, Ga. The church formerly got underway with the arrival of the organizing pastor, Rev. Ira Chace, who moved to Cobb County from Salem, Ma., in November of 1979.

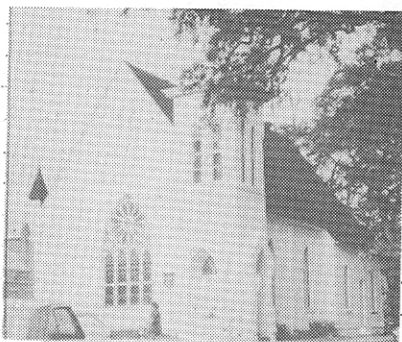
Awaiting Rev. Chace's arrival were a core of seven families. Five months later the congregation included some 18 families with attendance exceeding 40 each Sunday. Exceeding the space limitations of the Pizza Parlor where they had been meeting, this new growth has led Pilgrimage to a Bowling Alley where meeting and nursery facilities are sufficient for the present.

"We have a whale of a job. But how does one eat a whale?" asks Rev. Chace. "One bite at a time." Working diligently at church growth, Pilgrimage looks confidently to its future. The church address is: 3485 Pebble Hill Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30066.

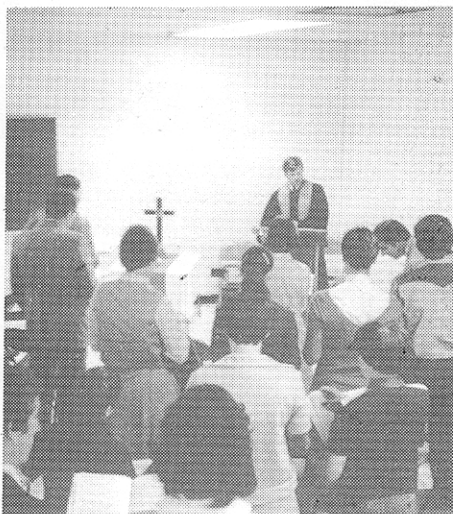
FAIRFIELD GLADE COMMUNITY CHURCH

One of the most unusual new church starts, funded in part through the Southeast Conference, is Fairfield Glade Community Church, located in the rapidly growing community of Fairfield Glade, near Crossville, Tn.

Inter-denominational in concept and design, Fairfield Glade Community Church was initially supported by the United Methodists, United Presbyterians



First Congregational Church, UCC, in Savannah, GA is being redeveloped in response to neighborhood urban renewal.



A meeting room in a bowling alley provides the temporary worship area for Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA.

and United Church of Christ. Today, it officially relates to the latter two denominations.

Begun in 1975, the church now has over 125 members, with nearly 100 persons attending Sunday worship. Meeting in a country club, the church hopes to break ground for its own facilities in 1981. The church's address is: Fairfield Glade, Tn. 38555. Rev. Marion Mansell is pastor.

SAVANNAH FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Church Development is "New" in a different way for First Congregational Church, UCC in Savannah, Ga. Begun in 1896, First Church finds itself in the midst of an extensive inner-city urban renewal project that is bringing new life and many new people back into the city to live.

In response, the church applied for and received funding from New Church Development to enable a redevelopment of their ministry to provide programs for and to reach out to the growing number of persons who are becoming new residents of the area. The church's address is: 421 Habersham St., Savannah, Ga. 31402.

SOUTHWEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Presently a Fellowship of the United Church of Christ, the next probable candidate for New Church Development funding is Southwest Congregational Church, located in the southwest part of Atlanta, Ga.

Formerly AME in affiliation, the church was formed in July, 1978. Located in a growing and transitional area, the church now has 85 members and has purchased an older church building. In October of 1980, Southwest will petition for membership in the Georgia-South Carolina Association, UCC. The organizing pastor is Rev. C.L. Sanders. The church is located at 2390 Niskey Lake Road, SW, Atlanta, Ga. 30331.

Financial Support Needed From All SEC Church Members

New Church Development's goal of five new church starts by 1988 can become a reality, but not without the help and direct financial support of the members of the 120 churches that currently compose the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

While the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, in covenant with the Southeast Conference, provides a large proportion of leadership funding, the Southeast Conference must do its share. In 1980, that means that the Southeast Conference must raise for New Church Development some \$21,000 above and beyond OCWM giving.

In order to accomplish this fund raising effort, New Church Development teams are approaching, through their churches, the 10,000 persons who compose the Southeast Conference. Anticipating completion of church visitations by early fall, teams are asking individual members to make their contributions to New Church Development directly to the Southeast Conference. As contributions are received, they will be used for pastoral support, expenses related to land survey and purchase, fund raising expenses and other needs related to New Church Development.

Concerning this fund raising effort, SEC Outreach Chairman Floyd Carmack has commented, "The 80's can be a glorious time for the United Church in the Southeast if each of us will catch the vision of New Church Development. I am counting on each of you to do all you can to make these dreams become a reality!"

Plan to give to New Church Development — and give generously!



Children are at the heart of the church's mission. Pictured above is the first church school class of Button Gwinnett UCC.

Funeral Services Observed

In January Clarence Elliott, a faithful member of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Chattanooga, passed away. He is survived by his wife, Grace, two children and several grandchildren. In addition to being Moderator of Pilgrim, Clarence had been Moderator of the old Soddy Congregational Church (and was instrumental in arranging its merger with Pilgrim). A frequent delegate to

Conference and Association meetings and active in many areas of church life, Clarence was well known in Chattanooga for his political leadership, his good sense and his support of benevolent causes.

A memorial service was held on March 5 at Pleasant Hill, Tn., Community Church for Thomas Lee Cunningham — "T.L." as he was known to his host of friends. Born in Sparta, Tn., T.L. attended Pleasant Hill

Academy, which he continued to serve as farm manager and dean of labor following his graduation. After retiring from the Farmers' Home Administration in 1964, he served as a member of the County Court — and as Mayor — of Pleasant Hill. T.L. was a member of the Uplands Board of Directors and was recently elected an emeritus member. He is survived by three children.

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The Southeast Conference Youth Core - pictured at Fisk University during their March 21-23 training event in preparation for the Conference Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Cont'd.

Meeting is a Youth Event — a set of activities especially designed for youth grades 7-12 and integrated into the schedule of the Annual Meeting. The Youth Event is under the able leadership of the Southeast Conference Youth Core.

Registration forms have been forwarded and will soon reach all Conference churches.

Search Comm. cont'd.

worked to reduce the number of candidates down to eight. The final four candidates were then interviewed by the whole committee, with Dr. Floyd being the final choice.

"Committee members," said Mrs. Hall, "were extremely committed. In all of the six meetings, only two people missed one meeting. And we very much appreciated the help of Norman Jackson from the office of the President. We found it very helpful to use his suggestions, and many felt like the process he shared with us could not be beat."

In addition to Mrs. Hall and Rev. Jackson, the committee included the following: Mrs. Audrey Livingston, Dr. David Beebe, Mr. Franklin Thomas, Rev. John Schofield, Rev. James McAdams, Miss Dorothy DeVillars, Rev. James Eaton, Mrs. Louise Cox, Mr. Milton Hurst, Ms. Mary Marshall, Miss Beth Green and Conference Moderator Rev. Henry Tuttle.



Bethany (Lime) Congregational Christian Church, UCC

—AROUND THE CONFERENCE—

Bethany (Lime) Congregational Christian Church, UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

One of nine UCC churches located in and around Roanoke, Alabama is Bethany (Lime) Congregational Christian Church, UCC. Begun by Rev. C.M. Dollar in October, 1896, the church is located in the southeastern section of Randolph County whose water is known for its high iron, mineral and lime content (hence the name Lime).

While the basic structure and the foundation of the sanctuary are essentially the same heart timbers which were used in the original building, Bethany Church has undergone a progressive face-lifting. In the 50's and 60's three church school rooms were added in addition to interior and exterior remodeling. In the 70's stained glass windows, a public address system and a steeple were added to the church.

Bethany Church's 58 members are proud of the loyalty and faithfulness of their church officers. Since 1915 only five men have served as Sunday School Superintendent with an equivalent number serving as Secretary, Treasurer and Clerk.

In its 84 year history, the church has been served by 23 ministers. Fred M. Morris is in his second year as the church's pastor.

NEWS and NOTES

George and Joyce Percival, who headed a special one year Development Program for Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, Tn., were recognized for their work at a reception held in their honor March 30 at Uplands. On April 1 the Percivals left for California where they intend to make their new home.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, in Birmingham, Al., welcomed Rev. James Lightbourne, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, as their 1980 "Theologian-In-Residence." Present March 8-12, Rev. Lightbourne delivered lectures on "The Shape of the Church in the '80's."

Youth volunteers are needed to spend their summer as counselors, gardeners, recreation leaders, drivers, rehabilitation assistants, community and union organizers for the UC Board of Homeland Ministries' voluntary services program. Most projects run from June to August and require participants to be at least 19. Cost of the program is \$18, which includes insurance coverage. Participants must pay their own travel expenses. For information, write Summer Service, UCBHM, Rm. 1782, 132 W. 31 St., New York, NY 10001.

An Alabama-Tennessee Association Youth "Pop-In," held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, in Chattanooga, Tn., Feb. 28-March 2, was attended by some 45 young people and adults. Pilgrim members were in charge of local arrangements as well as program.

The administrative offices of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, Tn., were moved in early April to one wing of the newly renovated Heritage Hall. Formerly known as the "Craft Shop," Heritage Hall will also house a dining and recreation area and the offices of Pleasant Hill Community UCC when renovation is finally complete.

Living Faith, a quarterly magazine of the United Church People for Biblical Witness, has distributed its first — Spring, 1980 — issue to all of the local congregations in the United Church of Christ. Persons wishing to subscribe to



Rev. Paul Baumer (center), Minister for Stewardship & Development of the Ohio Conference, led the Ala-Tenn Clergy-Spouse Retreat held March 18-20 at Monteagle, TN.

Living Faith should contact Editor Martin Duffy, 501 Broad Ave., Susquehanna, Pa. 18847.

The Youth Fellowship of Belvidere, Tn., UCC, collected some 15,000 lbs. of paper in their recent paper drive. In addition to this money-making venture, they also served the church by conducting Easter Sunrise Service and preparing and serving the breakfast that followed.

On Sunday, May 4, First Christian Church and Pilgrim UCC in Chattanooga, Tn., "traded" ministers and identity filmstrips in an effort to publicize and enable the Disciples — UCC merger conversations that are currently underway nationally.

Mr. John Potts recently visited St. John's UCC, Cullman, Al. — Huntsville, Al., UCC — and Brookmeade UCC, Nashville, Tn., all three of which are anticipating construction and expansion of their church plants. Mr. Potts is Secretary of the Office of Church Building UCBHM.

In response to an initiative in 1978 by the Board of Christian Education of the Pleasant Hill, Tn., UCC, more than 30 Uplands retirement villagers have worked as helpers in the local school system, sharing in their rich heritage and experience. Children as well as teachers have appreciated their contributions.